

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

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for informal communication

TO: Examiner Joyce Tung

FROM: Frank C. Eisenschenk, Ph.D.

COMPANY: U.S. Patent Office, Art Unit 1637

DATE: July 3, 2003

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SUBJECT/MESSAGE:

U.S. Patent Application Docket No. G-069US02CIP
(Fouillet et al.)
METHOD FOR CARRYING OUT A BIOCHEMICAL PROTOCOL IN
CONTINUOUS FLOW IN A MICROREACTOR
Serial No. 09/772,280; filed January 29, 2001

Dear Examiner Tung:

Pursuant to our discussions, attached are proposed claims incorporating the changes we discussed. Changes to the claims presented in the after final amendment are indicated by underlining and strikethrough. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Christopher Eisenschenk, Ph.D.

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Proposed claims for discussion purposes only.

Claim 9 (twice amended):

A method for carrying out a chemical or biochemical protocol comprising:

depositing liquid sample volumes into a plurality of sample receiving regions on at least one mobile sample transport member; and
moving the sample transport member along a pathway such that said sample receiving regions move through at least one temperature regulated zone upon which a thermal transfer member acts, wherein said thermal transport member and said at least one temperature regulated zone cycle between at least two temperatures while said sample receiving regions are moving through said at least one temperature regulated zone; and

wherein the protocol is carried out in an atmosphere sufficiently humid to reduce or prevent evaporation of the liquid sample volumes.

51 (new). A method for carrying out a chemical or biochemical protocol comprising:

depositing liquid sample volumes into a plurality of sample receiving regions on at least one mobile sample transport member; and

moving the sample transport member along a pathway such that said sample receiving regions move through at least one temperature regulated zone upon which a thermal transfer member acts, wherein said thermal transport member and said at least one temperature regulated zone cycle between at least two temperatures while said sample receiving regions are moving through said at least one temperature regulated zone;

wherein said sample transport member is moved along said pathway by reels which frictionally engage the sample transport member.

52 (new). A method for carrying out a chemical or biochemical protocol comprising:

depositing liquid sample volumes into a plurality of sample receiving regions on at least one mobile sample transport member; and

moving the sample transport member along a pathway such that said sample receiving

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regions move through at least one temperature regulated zone upon which a thermal transfer member acts, wherein said thermal transport member and said at least one temperature regulated zone ~~cycle~~cycles between at least two temperatures while said sample receiving regions are moving through said at least one temperature regulated zone; and

wherein the sample receiving regions are covered by a non-miscible liquid in order to prevent evaporation of the liquid sample volumes.